Tale Feathers

March 2004

Volume 71
Number 2

Compete Newsletter Part 3

Aldo Leopold's Challenge for Missourians
Joint March Meeting with Sierra Club

Mark your calendar for 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 25th at the Brentwood Community Center for our joint meeting with the Eastern Missouri Group of the Sierra Club.

Susan Flader, professor of history at the University of Missouri-Columbia, will discuss the life and thoughts of Aldo Leopold and how they translate to our current challenges in Missouri.

Professor Flader teaches American and world environmental history and the history of Missouri and the American West. She has published several books and numerous articles on the career and thoughts of Aldo Leopold, including *Thinking Like a Mountain* (1974/1994) and *The River of the Mother of God* (1991). She has served as president of the Missouri Parks Association and on the boards of the National Audubon Society, the American Forestry Association, the Aldo Leopold Foundation and the L-A-D Foundation.

The Brentwood Community Center is at 2505 South Brentwood Boulevard, just north of the intersection of Brentwood and Manchester Avenue.

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World Bird Sanctuary Events

World Bird Sanctuary' Sunrise With Songbirds: March 7, 20 & 27; April 3, 10, 17 & 25; May 2, 9 & 22. Check-In begins at 7am; tour starts promptly at 7:30am. $5 per adult, $3 per child under 12 ¨10% discount for WBS Sponsors.

For more information call (636)225-4390. World Bird Sanctuary's World Eagle Day: Sunday, March 21, 2004 11am-4pm

This event is free to the public. For more information call (636)225-4390.

THANK YOU

The St. Louis Audubon Society would like to acknowledge a contribution received from Roger and Linda James in memory of Viola Clark for her love of all birds.

Cranefest

The Great Platte River Road Archway Monument in Kearney, NE. is holding its annual Cranefest event which will take place from March 1 through April 15. For more information, please contact 877-511-ARCH

Conservation Report

Sue Gustafson, Vice President, Conservation

Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative ((MoBCI) update: MoBCI, of which St. Louis Audubon Society (SLAS) is one of 29 partners throughout the state, has recently announced its first annual grant program that will provide financial support to public and private organizations who have partnerships that carry out bird habitat conservation projects in Missouri. The Missouri Department of Conservation is making $100,000 available for MoBCI grants, with individual awards available up to a maximum of $20,000. This grant money will assist in protecting, enhancing or restoring bird habitats and/or monitoring the results of habitat restoration programs. SLAS will pursue potential MoBCI grant money to supplement the funding received under the St. Louis Urban Bird Conservation Treaty Program, a cooperative agreement program between the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and St. Louis Audubon.

Letters to federal agencies: SLAS submitted letters under February deadlines to two federal agencies expressing concerns over two proposals that threaten bird habitat. The U.S. Forest Service is proposing to double the amount of trails and roads currently open to off-road vehicle usage in the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri; these vehicles are very damaging to vegetation, soils, water, and wildlife. We requested that an environmental impact statement be prepared to assess the damage to the environment by off-road vehicle usage before any additional trails are open to this activity. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is reviewing permit applications for the St. Peter's Levee that would have direct impact on 48 acres of the waters of the U.S. and indirect impact to 106.4 acres of wetlands. We asked that the Corps perform an environmental impact statement and a study assessing the cumulative impact of floodplain loss throughout the metropolitan region as a result of other recent levee projects such as the Howard Bend Levee and the Chesterfield Monarch Levee.

Upcoming International Migratory Bird Week festivities: Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for the colored flyer insert in next month's *Talefeathers* which will list the activities planned for International Migratory Bird Week May 2 - 9. This year's theme is Conservation of Colonial Birds. Activities will include numerous bird walks at some of the area's best migration hotspots, along with a day of family activities at Powder Valley Nature Center on May 8.

St. Louis Audubon Annual Meeting

Stephen Mahfood, DNR Director, to Speak at Annual Meeting on April 16

Mark your calendar and register now for St. Louis Audubon Society's Annual Meeting at the Creve Coeur Government Center on Friday, April 16, 2004. Our speaker this year will be Stephen Mahfood, director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Mahfood will discuss the current status and future plans for natural areas in Missouri and the many opportunities for organizations like Audubon to get involved.

6:00 p.m.-Hendri's will serve a dinner buffet, including drinks and dessert.
7:00 p.m.-we will have a short business meeting, including presentation of awards and the election of the Board.
8:00 p.m.-Director Mahfood's presentation

The evening is open to all, but only current SLAS members will be allowed to vote in the Board election. The cost is just $18 per person. Reservations are required-please use the form below.

The Government Center can be reached easily from I-270 and Ladue. Go east on Ladue, left at the light at New Ballas and go fi mile north to the Creve Coeur Government Center on your right at 300 N. New Ballas. The Community Center can be reached thru the door in the northwest corner of the basement.

Annual Audubon Meeting Registration Form

Please mail this form or a copy with payment by check to:
Mitch Leachman, 2728 Lakeport Drive, Maryland Heights, MO 63043
Make check payable to St. Louis Audubon Society.

_____ $18.00 x _____ = _____
Name(s) Fee No. Total Enclosed

Birding Field Trips

John Solodar

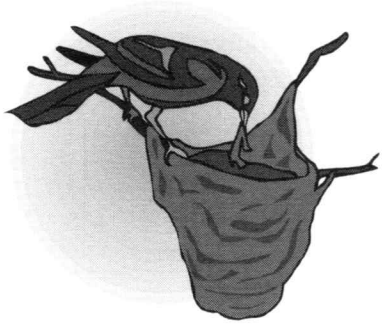
March and April 2004

Note that all field trips are free and open to the public. Except for the full weekend trip of April 23-25, there is no need to sign up ahead of time, simply show up at the starting point.

March 6, Saturday - SLAS Trip has been cancelled
March 7, Sunday - WGNSS trip to Riverlands starts at 8:00 AM from the Teal Pond parking lot. Tom Parmeter leads this one.
March 14, Sunday - WGNSS trip at Horseshoe Lake in Illinois starting at 8:00 AM. Kent Lannert is the leader.
March 20, Saturday - SLAS trip to Busch Conservation Area and Weldon Spring led by Paul Bauer and Mike Grant at 8:00 AM.
March 27,Saturday - St. Louis County "Bird-n-Learn" walk held in conjunction with SLAS. Mary Dueren will lead this trip at Creve Coeur County Park starting at 8:00 AM.
April 3, Saturday - SLAS bird walk at Horseshoe Lake in Illinois. This trip starts at 8:00 AM and will be led by Torrey Berger and Mike Thelen. Expect to see lots of ducks and possibly some shorebirds and other early spring migrants.
April 17, Saturday - Mike Brady knows Castlewood State Park very well and he will be our SLAS leader just as the spring migration is getting into full steam. Early warblers should be much in evidence and Mike always finds some interesting raptors as well. Trip starts at 8:00 AM.
April 18, Sunday - Dale and Nancy Delaney lead a WGNSS trip to Lost Valley starting at 8:00 AM
April 23-25, Friday - Sunday - This SLAS full weekend trip will cover Mingo National Wildlife Refuge and some other good birding areas in the vicinity. Enrollment is limited so sign up by contacting Mike and Leifann Brownstein kestrel@lab.net or call them at 314 863-4525.
April 25, Sunday - Join Rad Widmer on a WGNSS birdwalk at Busch Conservation Area starting at 8:00 AM

How to get there

Horseshoe Lake - Take I-70 east across the Poplar Street Bridge. Exit at Hwy 111 (exit 6) and turn left. Go about 2 miles to the State Park entrance (on the left). Meet at 1st parking lot on the right.
Busch Conservation Area - Take U.S.40/I-64 west into St. Charles County. Take Hwy 94 south from U.S 40 about 1 mile to Hwy D. Turn right and go about 1.5 miles to the entrance on the right. Turn left at the "T" to Hampton Lake and meet in the parking lot.
Creve Coeur Lake/Little Creve Coeur Lake complex. From the western leg of I-270 go west on Olive for 2.0 miles. Turn right on Creve Coeur Mill Road and travel about 1.5 miles to the green roofed building on the right, adjacent to Mallard Lake.
Riverlands - Take Hwy 367 north from I-270. The designation changes to Hwy 67 just beyond the 4th traffic light, but continue. Turn right on last road just before the Clark Bridge at the Mississippi River. (Fisca gas station at this turn.) Turn right on the first road and park in the Teal Pond parking lot.
Castlewood State Park - Take Big Bend west from I-270 for about 6 miles. Turn left on Ries Rd. Follow Ries to it's termination and turn left into the park. Park in lot on right just before the small stream.
Lost Valley Trail - In St. Charles County, from the intersection of Hwy 40 (I-64) and Hwy 94, go south on Hwy 94 a few miles. The parking lot for Lost Valley trail is the first large parking lot (there are a few small ones first) on the right side of the highway and is at the bottom of a sweeping downhill curve. Shortly before you get there you will pass the entrance to the Katy Trail on your left.



Audubon Society of Missouri (ASM) Spring Meeting April 23-25, 2004

ASM invites the members of St. Louis Audubon to the ASM Spring Meeting based at the Ramada Inn in West Plains, Mo. The Missouri Ozarks Regional Explorers, host of the ASM Spring Meeting, have put together a wonderful selection of field trips along the Eleven Point River, Caney Mountain, Alley Spring, Noblett Lake, Tingler Prairie, Althea Spring, and Grand Gulf State Park. Volunteers from the U.S. Forest Service, the Missouri Department of Conservation, the National Parks Service, and others will act as guides on the field trips.

Friday, April 23, 2004

3:00PM	Registration at the Ramada Inn begins
	Silent auction begins
6:00PM	Reception at the Missouri Department of Conservation facility

Saturday, April 24, 2004

6:30AM	Leave for field trips
11:30AM	Return from morning half-day field trips
1:00PM	Leave for afternoon half-day field trips
5:00PM	Return from field trips
6:00PM	Banquet at the West Plains Civic Center
7:30PM	Silent auction ends

Sunday, April 25, 2004

6:30AM	Leave for field trips
11:30AM	Return from morning half-day field trips
5:00PM	Return from full day trip

For more information including descriptions of the field trips and a registration form, please visit the ASM website at www.mobirds.org or contact Sue Gustafson at 314-968-8128.

Spring Weekend Trip to Mingo National Wildlife Refuge

We are pleased to announce a spring weekend trip to Mingo National Wildlife Refuge from Friday, April 23 to Sunday, April 25. For those of you who have never been there, the official Mingo Motto is "It's a Swamp Thang". Due to Mingo's far southern Missouri location and diverse habitat, 247 species of birds have been recorded there plus numerous accidentals. We can expect bird diversity at its height during this trip; we'll see lots of warblers and huge amounts of shorebirds. In addition to touring Mingo, we will visit the Otter Slough and Duck Creek areas as well. Our species count should top 75! The trip is being led by Mike Grant and many of our most experienced birder's are planning to attend.

The trip is limited to 25 people. We have pre-reserved 14 rooms at Miller's Motor Lodge, 573 222-8579 www.millersmotorlodge.com, in Wappapello near the Refuge for Friday and Saturday nights. There is limited additional lodging in the area. Check in anytime Friday; allow at least 3 hours for the drive from St. Louis. Those who have made it in time can meet for dinner across the street from Miller's at Jerry's Restaurant & Lounge at 7 pm for steaks, fish and more.

If you wish to come, please email or call the trip coordinators. Give us your name, address, email address, when you plan to arrive, and whether you wish to stay at Miller's and attend the dinner. If space is available, we'll confirm your spot and email you an information packet with directions, schedule and other tidbits of information to you. Call Lonnie or Pat at Miller's and transfer one of the reserved rooms into your name. See you at the Swamp! Trip Coordinators Mike & Leifann Brownstein, (314) 863-4525 kestrel@lab.net .

Tree Planting at Two Rivers NWR March 13

Join us on Saturday, March 13 as we work to restore the natural character of the Gilbert and Swan Lake areas of Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge outside Grafton, Illinois.
This will be our only work day this spring and it should be fun and rewarding. We plan to plant tree seedlings on the Swan Lake side of the Illinois River to help restore and area of former farmland to native wildlife habitat.
We will work from 10a to 2p, with lunch afterward in Grafton. Bring gloves, boots, and drinking water.

Call Mitch Leachman at (314) 739-5112 for more info and to sign up.

New Members

New

Adeline Alpert
Mrs. Rita Altnether
Jim Arl
Cindy Barnard
Betty Benkert
Brian Bouwman
Bill Brighoff
Jack Cannon
Linda Rosa Chiodini
Laurine Cleneay
Joan Cobb
Freda Colbeck
Cecil Cook
Richard Coplin
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Echols
Laura Engelage
Don & Kathy Evans
Mary Ann Ford
Helen Forster
Edward Franks
H. C. Fruhauf
Lynda K. Ginsburg
Carol Green
Hella M. Harrison
Jean Hart
Jane Hollman
Charlotte Hoover
Traci Hopkins
The Kniptash Family
Bruce Kurka
James Lenhardt
Ms. Peggy Lewis
John M. Lodato
Stephen Maloney
Gene R. Marner
Stan Masters
Mr. Michael McDonald
S.A. Murray
James Nietmann
Tove Post Roberts
Jean Ragan
R. Ragsdale
Anne Rieser
Faith Robinson
M. Roch Rocklage Rsm.
Edward Runge
Jeannie Schramn
Mr. & Mrs. David Servis
John Slattery
Dorothy K. Smiley
Robert Taylor
Otto Tucker
Mr. S. T. Vandover
Susan Videen
Stephanie R. Walden
Larry Weldon
Gabriel M. Wesson
Ms. Susan Wies
Virginia Williamson
Paulette Winkelmann
Mr. Marion J. Bomkamp
Doug Durham
Ruth I. Kraemer
Gloria & Scott Morse

Transfers

Lucy Bailey
Mary Clark
Rodney Hanephin
Allen Klippel
William Knowles
Suzanne Latchford
Marshak
Arthur Oldin
Fillis Thomas
Margaret Walker
Glynn Young

It's a Party!!!

Please join us on March 26 for our next newsletter mailing party at Mary Dueren's house. Please call 314-576-1473 for time and directions.

Tale Feathers

Tale Feathers is published monthly by the St. Louis Audubon Society. Messenger Printing prints 2,500 copies of each newsletter on recycled paper using soy ink. Anne Bolte edits the newsletter.

St. Louis Audubon Society 2003 - 2004

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Secretary - Mary Smidt	636-227-6127

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Attention!

The deadline for the April issue is **March 10**. Send inquiries to Anne by
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phone 314.832.0938
post 6939 Sharp
St. Louis, MO 63116

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Join the St. Louis Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society

As a joint member with National Audubon, you will receive National Audubon's quarterly magazine (Audubon) as well as St. Louis Audubon Society's Newsletter (Tale Feathers). Now you also have the opportunity to join only the St. Louis Audubon Society, receive Tale Feathers, and participate in the educational and conservation activities of St. Louis Audubon. There is no distinction between individual and family membership. Dues cover all members at the same address. For information, call (314) 822-6595.

St. Louis Audubon Society / National Audubon Society -- Membership Application

Use this form to join St. Louis Audubon / National Audubon

For joint membership in St. Louis Audubon Society and National Audubon Society, Make checks payable to **National Audubon Society** and mail to St. Louis Audubon Society, P. O. Box 220227, Kirkwood, MO 63122.

_____ Membership / $35 For renewal in the National Audubon Society we recommend that you use the forms supplied by National Audubon. For more information contact Anne Rankin Horton at 636-256-3402

_____ Introductory Membership / $20 _____ Special Two-Year Introductory Membership / $30

_____ Senior Citizen (62 and older) / $15 (New and renewal) _____ Student / $15 (New and renewal)

Membership in only the St. Louis Audubon Society. Write checks payable to **SLAS**. Mail to St. Louis Audubon Society, P. O. Box 220227, Kirkwood, MO 63122.

_____ Local Chapter Membership only (St. Louis Audubon Society), Introductory and renewal. / $15

Name_____

Address_____

City _____State____ Zip Code_____ NO1 7XCH